



**Peter A O Wasamba (PhD, Nairobi)**

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**Professional Summary**

Peter Wasamba is a Professor of African Oral Literature at the University of Nairobi. He is the current Dean Faculty of Arts at the University of Nairobi. He has previously served as an Associate Dean, Faculty of arts, and Chairman in the Department of Literature. He has BA, MA and PhD in Literature, all from the University of Nairobi. Wasamba's area of specialization is Research in African Oral Literature. His current research project is on Digitisation and archiving of African Oral Literature. He also serves as the Coordinator, Korean Studies programme at the University of Nairobi.

**Education**

- Ph.D., University of Nairobi, 1999 - 2002 (Literature)
- M.A., University of Nairobi, 1996 - 1998 (Literature)
- B.A., University of Nairobi, 1990 -1993 (Literature)

## **Work Experience**

- 2016 February, Professor of African Oral Literature
- 2015 January to present, Dean, Faculty of Arts
- 2011 to 2014, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Nairobi
- 2010 to 2016, Associate Professor, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi.
- 2008 to 2011, Chairman, Department of Literature, University of Nairobi.
- 2006 to 2010, Senior Lecturer, Department of Literature, CHSS, University of Nairobi.
- 2002 - 2007, Lecturer, Department of Literature, CHSS, University of Nairobi.
- 2000 - 2002, Lecturer, Department of Linguistics & Literature, CEES, University of Nairobi.
- 1998 - 2000, Administrator, CEES, University of Nairobi.

## **Visiting Lecturer/Researcher**

- June 2015 – February 2016: DAAD scholar in the International Deans' Course (Germany, Ghana and Ethiopia)
- May – July 2012, Guest Scholar, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg – Germany
- March – April 2012, Visiting Researcher, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea
- June 2009, Guest Lecturer, University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill-USA
- April 2008, Guest Lecturer, UNC Chapel Hill, - USA
- April – July 2007, Guest Scholar, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg – Germany

## **Scholastic Awards and Fellowships**

- 2015-2016: DAAD scholar in the International Deans' Course (Germany, Ghana and Ethiopia)

- 2012 May - July: DAAD Senior Researchers' Fellowship to Hamburg University, Germany
- 2007 April - July: DAAD Senior Researchers' Fellowship to Hamburg University, Germany
- 2006 March: University of Nairobi Dean's Committee Grant for Research in Oral Literature
- 1999: University of Nairobi scholarship for PhD programme
- 1996: University of Nairobi scholarship for MA programme

### **International Partnerships**

- **PANGeA:** I am a board member of the Partnership for Africa's Next Generation Academics (PANGeA). The Pan-African doctoral program run by PANGeA runs a doctoral programme for humanities and social sciences for eight premier universities in Africa. Currently CHSS has four students at the doctoral academy in Stellenbosch.
- **Korean Studies Project:** I have been instrumental in extending academic ties with Korean universities and other governmental institutions to promote Korean Studies at the University of Nairobi. This has resulted in the funding of the Korean Studies Programme at the University of Nairobi by the Government of Korea. Prof. Enos Njeru is the Research Director for the Project.
  - I am a research Coordinator for the establishment of the Korean studies Project. The project has enabled Korean Studies curriculum to be launched at the University of Nairobi.
- **PHASSEA:** I have been involved in strengthening regional academic collaboration between the three East African leading Universities: the University of Nairobi, University of Makerere and the University of Dar es salaam. We have since formed Partnership for Humanities and Social Science in East Africa (PHASSEA). The partnership works to promote quality research and training in partner universities.

- **Debre Markos University:** I have been instrumental in extending academic partnership with Debre Markos University in Blue Nile region of Ethiopia. We are playing a mentoring role in this university by sharing best practices at the University of Nairobi.
- **Laica Eloy University, Ecuador:** With the support of CHSS, I'm currently working on a research project with professors of Laica Eloy Alfaro University in Manabi, Ecuador on a research project entitled "Equinoctial Cultures and Multiculturalism."
- **SOKA University, Japan:** I have been able strengthen our collaboration with Soka University in Tokyo Japan. This has allowed our students to benefit from exchange programme and training of students' leaders in Tokyo on progressive students leadership.

#### **PhD SUPERVISION**

1. Kimingichi Wabende. "From the Fireside to the Stage: A Study of the Performance of Oral Narrative." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2014.
2. Felix Orina. "An Examination of Symbolism and Transience in the Oral Literature of the Abagusii." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2014.
3. Masibo Beatrice. "The Treatment of Women in the Novels of Ngugi wa Thiongo and Alice Walker." Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2010.
4. Maina Lucy M. "Myths in Modern African Literature: A Case Study of Rebeka Njau's Works". Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2008.
5. Muleka Joseph."Bweya Nuptial Songs". Unpublished PhD Dissertation, UoN, 2007.
6. Judith Jefwa. "Masking Death: A Comparative Study of Selected Works by Leo Tolstoy, Gabriel G. Marquez, William Faulkner, Margaret Ogola and Helen Garner."(ongoing)

#### **MA SUPERVISION**

1. Ojiambo, J. Kubasu, "The Art of Narrative Embedding in Chimamanda Adichie's Fiction". Unpublished M.A Dissertation (2014).

2. Kiguru, D. Wanjiru. "Representations of Violence in Childhood Narratives: Chimamanda Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*." Unpublished M.A Dissertation (2012).
3. Mugo Abel M. "Symbolism in Oral narratives of the Samburu of Baawa Location." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2011
4. Odhiambo, J. A. "Aesthetics in Luo Praise Poetry". MA Dissertation (2010)
5. Atsango Ruth F. "The Journey Motif in flora Nwapa's *Efuru* and Margaret Ogola's *The River and the Source*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2010.
6. Orina Felix A. "An Investigation of Aesthetic Strategies Employed by Gusii Oral Narrators in Gusii Oral Narratives." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2008.
7. Komu Rose Wangui. "Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Fiction: A Focus on Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's *Chira*, Joseph Situma's *The Mysterious Killer*, and Carolyn Adalla's *Confessions of an AIDS Victim*. Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2005
8. Ndivo Larry M. "Organic Unity in Alex La Guma's *Time of the Butcher Bird*." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2004.
9. Wambua Kawive. "The Problematics of the Quest for Identity in Derek Walcott's *Dream on the Monkey Mountain*." Unpublished MA Dissertation, UoN, 2003.

### **Peer Reviewed Journal Papers**

1. Wasamba, P. "Prospects for Korean Studies in Africa: The Case of University of Nairobi." *African East-Asian Affairs*. Stellenbosch University. Issue 3, September 2014, 38-53.
2. Wasamba, P. "Voicing Seoul Metropolis: The Other Side of Urbanization in Korea." *HEKIMA: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. UoN. Vol. VI. No. 1, 2014, 119-134.
3. Wasamba, P and Jennifer Muchiri. "Overcoming Challenges in a Strange Research Locale: Reflections of Fieldwork Experiences in the Republic of Korea." *HEKIMA: Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*. UoN. Vol. VI. No. 2, 2014

4. Wasamba, P, "Intertextuality in Joseph Conrad's *Under Western Eyes* and Ngugi wa Thiongo's *A Grain of Wheat*." *Journal of African Affairs*. HUFSS. Vol. 34, August 2013, 95-126.
5. Wasamba, P. "Quest for Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya: *The Role of Oral History*". *Journal of African Affairs*. HUFSS. Vol. 33. February 2013, 247-272.
6. Wasamba, P. "Echoes of Dialogue in African and Korean Oral Literatures". *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. UoN. Vol. 7, December 2013, 1-12.
7. Wasamba, P and Ben Sihanya. "What Do they get for their Sweat: Rethinking Compensation for Artists in Poor Cash-based Economies." *Journal of African Cultures*. SOAS. Vol. 24, No. 2, December 2012, 171–183. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13696815.2012.732303>.
8. Wasamba, P. "Going beyond Data Collection in Ethnography: *Options for Bridging the Gap between Researchers and Archivists*." *Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. UNISA. Vol. 7. No. 2. April 2013, 4-17. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/18186874.2013.774695>.
9. Wasamba P. "Politics, Ethnicity and Ethics: The Dilemmas of a Fieldworker." *International Journal of African Renaissance Studies*. UNISA. Vol. 4 No. 2. November 2009, 193 – 204
10. Wasamba P. "The Concept of Heroism in Samburu Moran Ethos". *Journal of African Languages and Cultural Studies*. SOAS. Vol. 21, No. 2, December 2009, 145 – 158
11. Wasamba P. "Centring the De-Voiced: Rethinking Personhood in Oral Literature Field Research." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, UoN. No. 6 (2010).
12. Wasamba P. "Ethnicity and Chronic Poverty in Kenya: A Phenomenological Approach. *African Affairs Journal*, Hankuk University, (2009): pp 185 – 212.
13. Wasamba, P. (Interviewed by Emily Shenk). "The Need to Move On: Learning from Oral Narratives in Kenya." *Rapportage: Journal of Literary Essays, Interviews, and Profiles*. Vol. xi, 2008. pp 78 – 83.
14. Wasamba, P. "The Pedagogical Value of Children's Oral Literature in Kenya" Nairobi: *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*. No 4, 2007

15. Wasamba P. "Magic or Mirage: The Efficacy of Nvivo7 in Oral Literature Research". *African Affairs Journal*, Hankuk University, (2007): pp 141 – 182.
16. Wasamba P. Marching Backwards into the Future: Oral Literature in the Cyberspace, *Chemi Chemi Journal of Literature*, Kenyatta University, Nairobi (2007): pp 114-118.
17. Wasamba P. "Conservation for Sustainable Development. The Unexplored Potential of Kenyan Folklore", *African Affairs Journal*, Hankuk University, 2006, 189 - 200.
18. Wasamba P. "Preservation of Oral Literature through Research." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature*, (2006): pp 1 – 6.
19. Wasamba P. "Oral Poetry in East Africa: Perspectives and Insights." *The Nairobi Journal of Literature* (2004), Nairobi. pp 1-9.

### **Chapters in Book Publications**

1. Wasamba P. "Collaboration between Kenyan and Korean Oral Literature Scholars: What the Academy of Korean Studies Needs to Know," *AKS Bulletin*, 2010
2. Wasamba P. "An Ethno-linguistic Analysis of Chronic Poverty in Kenya: A Background Paper". Chronic Poverty Research Centre, UoN. 2009. pp 126-139.
3. Wasamba P. "Conservation for Sustainable Development: The Unexplored Potential of Kenyan Folklore." In Peter Wasamba *et.al.* Eds. *Our Narratives our Landscapes: Relationship between Creativity and Environmental Conservation*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2006, 11-18.

### **Book Publications**

1. Wasamba, P, *Contemporary Oral Literature Fieldwork: A Researcher's Guide*. University of Nairobi Press, 2015. ISBN 978-9966-792-53-2. pp. 300.

2. Wasamba, P and Jennifer Muchiri. *Seoul Speaks: Narratives of Urbanisation in Korea*. Nairobi, Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2013. ISBN: 978-9966-21-391-4
3. Wasamba P, J Muchiri and DH Kiiru, *Essay as a Handshake*, Nairobi: CHSS, ISBN, 2012.pp.104.
4. Wasamba P, J. Bwonya & H. Mugambi. Eds. *Tales from my Motherland*. Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, 2010. Pp. 163
5. Wasamba P. *Introduction to Oral Literature: Lecture Series*. Nairobi: Nairobi University Press, 2007. pp. 89
6. Peter Wasamba *et.al.* Eds. *Our Narratives our Landscapes: Relationship between Creativity and Environmental Conservation*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2006
7. Wasamba P. *Notes on Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye's coming to Birth*. 2005. pp. 75
8. Wasamba P. *et.al.* Eds. *Our Narratives our Landscapes: Relationship between Creativity and Environmental Conservation*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2006). Pp 145.
9. Wasamba P. "Dustbin," a poem in *Mwangaza* Volume 2 No. 3: Nairobi: Department of Literature, 2004.
10. Wasamba P. "Rest Me Quietly," a poem in *Mwangaza* Volume 2 No. 3: Nairobi: Department of Literature, 2004.
11. Wasamba P. "The Summit," a poem in *Mwangaza* Volume 2 No. 3: Nairobi: Department of Literature, 2004.
12. Wasamba P *et.al.* (Eds) *Gender and Constitution: Academicians' Perspectives*. 2002. pp. 106.
13. Wasamba P. "The Train," a poem in *Echoes across the Valley*. Eds. Kwamchetsi Makhoha and Arthur Luvai. Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers, 2000.
14. Wasamba P., *et.al.* *Sauti Kutoka Pwani*. Nairobi: Kenya Oral Literature Association, 2001.pp.
15. Wasamba P., *et. al.* *Sauti Kutoka Pwani*. Nairobi: KOLA, 1999. pp. 35.
16. Wasamba P and Wanjiku Kabira, *Tilda: A Collection of Poems on Girls and Women*, Nairobi: CCGD, 1998. pp.46.



17. Wasamba P and Evan Mwangi. *Notes on Margaret Ogolla's are The River and the Source* (co-authored with Evan Mwangi). 1998. pp. 98
18. Wasamba P and Z. Mutea. *Curriculum for Trainers on Gender Equality and Women's Participation in Local Governance*, Kenya Oral Literature Association, Nairobi (2005): pp. 38.
19. Wasamba P *et.al*, *Making Gender Count in Policy Development*. Nairobi: CCGD 2001. pp. 50.
20. Wasamba P and Wanjiku Kabira. *Reclaiming Women's Space in Politics*. Nairobi: CCGD 1998. pp. 89.

#### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name:	Peter Wasamba
Nationality:	Kenyan (8621041)
Marital Status:	Married
Date of Birth	04 – 06 - 1965
Language:	Dholuo, English and Kiswahili

#### **REFEREES**

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